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**FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**

**To:** Commissioner for Patents  
Examiner Joon H. Hwang

**Firm:** U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Art Unit 2166

**Facsimile:** (571) 273-8300

**From:** Thomas F. Presson

**Date:** June 26, 2006

**Re:** FLH Ref No.: 450100-02278  
Serial No: 09/492,044

**Number of Pages:** 12  
(including cover page)

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PATENT  
450100-02278IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICERECEIVED  
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JUN 26 2006

Applicants : Gentaro Okayasu, et al.  
 Serial No. : 09/492,044  
 Filed : January 26, 2000  
 For : FREE STORAGE SPACE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD  
 Examiner : Joon H. Hwang  
 Art Unit : 2166

745 Fifth Avenue  
 New York, NY 10151  
 Tel: 212-588-0800

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☒ No additional fee is required.  
☐ The fee has been calculated as shown below.  
☐ This is an application of a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9(f), and the amounts shown in parentheses apply.

Claims as Amended

(1)	(2) Claims remaining after amendment	(3)	(4) Highest number previously paid for	(5) Present extra	(6) Rate	(7) Additional Fee
Total claims	8	Minus	** =20	* 0 x	\$50 (25)	= \$ 0
Independent claims	2	Minus	*** =3	* 0 x	\$200 (100)	= \$ 0
Total additional fee for this amendment						\$ 0

\* If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 4, write "0" in Column 5.

\*\* If the highest number of total claims previously paid for is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

\*\*\* If the highest number of independent claims previously paid for is less than 3, write "3" in this space.

- ☐ This application contains a multiple dependent claim. The required fee of \$280(140) has been previously paid ☐, or is paid herewith ☐.
- ☐ This response is being filed within the \_\_\_\_ month following the expiration of the term originally set therefor. This is a petition to request a \_\_\_\_ month extension of time. A check covering the cost of the petition is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_ is attached, which covers the cost of ☐ additional claims ☐ petition for extension of time.
- ☐ Charge \$ \_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.
- ☒ Please charge any additional fees incurred by reason of this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via  
 facsimile to (571) 273-8300 on June 26, 2006

Barnet Shindlman

(Name of person signing transmittal)




Signature

June 26, 2006

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
 Attorneys for Applicants

By:   
 Thomas F. Presson  
 Reg. No. 41,442  
 Tel: 212-588-0800

00380501

U.S. Appln. No. 09/492,044  
Reply to Final Office Action dated May 22, 2006

PATENT  
450100-02278

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Gentaro Okayasu, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/492,044  
For : FREE STORAGE SPACE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS  
AND METHOD  
Filed : January 26, 2000  
Examiner : Hwang, Joon H.  
Art Unit : 2166  
Confirmation No. : 9377

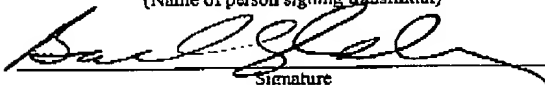
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Barnet Shindlman  
(Name of person signing transmittal)

  
Signature

June 26, 2006  
Date of Signature

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 22, 2006, having a three-month statutory period for response set to expire on August 22, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

U.S. Appln. No. 09/492,044  
Reply to Final Office Action dated May 22, 2006

PATENT  
450100-02278

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins  
on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.